

Councilman Paul Cunningham's Ward 2 Newsletter

D E C E M B E R 5 , 2 0 1 2

UPCOMING DATES:

- December 7: Pearl Harbor Remembrance day
- December 8: Hanukkah begins at Sundown
- December 15: Downtown Parade of Lights
- December 15: Christmas

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Packing Peanuts	2
Parade of Lights	2
Udall Park	3
Zoo Lights	3
Saguaro National Park	3
Stuff the Bus	4
Mayor and Council	4

PAUL'S NOTE

I want to thank all of you for your input on the city's gray water ordinance. The feedback to my office was overwhelmingly in favor of keeping the current standards that our community established four years ago.

Instead of getting rid of the requirement that new houses be gray water ready, the city will instead review current standards regarding water conservation across the board. I hope that this discussion leads to new ways in which our city can be a leader on conservation issues.

I will not vote for anything that weakens the gray water requirement. However, I am in favor of looking at a few things that could make the rules easier for homeowners and builders. For example, we could refine the rules to have gravity fed systems rather than those requiring an underground tank and pump. I am open to any moves like that that would encourage more use of gray water systems. The more people use them, the better for our long term water supply.

We also had a presentation from the Tucson Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau. I have a number of concerns. Their own figures show that Tucson is 15th out of 15 cities in hotel occupancy. They do say we are doing better, but there is more work for both us as a city government and the Bureau to do.

The city provides the Bureau with \$2.4 million, nearly 40% of their budget. I know that promoting events like the Accenture Match

Play tournament outside of Tucson provides the Tucson region with valuable exposure and even some tourist dollars; I'd still like to see more emphasis on events in Tucson that will attract people that stay in Tucson hotels and eat at Tucson restaurants.



Major League Soccer preseason, for example, gave our city international exposure when world wide stars like David Beckham and Thierry Henry were playing at Kino Stadium last year. This year's Soccer Fest will conclude with the Desert Diamond Cup final, a nationally broadcast game. MLS is hoping to expand its Tucson activities further. We need to make sure that the Bureau is engaged in that and in bringing similar events to our city.

I will be out of town for the next few days, but don't hesitate to call my office. As usual, my staff will be there to assist you.

Councilmember Cunningham after a bipartisan discussion of legislative issues with Rep. Bruce Wheeler (D) and Rep. Ethan Orr (R)



P A C K I N G P E A N U T S

‘Tis the season for many of us to get packages in the mail. In those packages we usually find styrofoam packing peanuts, lots of them. Many of the materials they are manufactured from are not made of easily biodegradable material.

Fortunately, there is a way to keep them out of our landfills and waste stream. According to the City’s Environmental Services Department, many shipping and packing stores

will take used peanuts and reuse them for new shipments. Call your local shipping and packing store first to find out if they take them.

Also, used packing peanuts can be taken to Suburban Miners, 3959 E. Speedway, Building #305, Monday thru Friday between 9 and 5. They also accept used electronics and scrap metal.



P A R A D E O F L I G H T S

The Downtown Tucson Partnership is presenting the the 18th Annual Downtown Parade of Lights. The 2012 Parade will take place on Saturday, December 15th, 6:30pm. The parade is one of Tucson’s most beloved holiday events. Each year thousands of spectators line the streets of downtown Tucson to watch entries wind their way through Downtown streets.

The 2012 official entry form is available for [download here](#). You will find

all information regarding entry into the parade including times, locations and general rules.

The parade route has changed to the lovely El Presidio neighborhood. [Please download the new route](#) and enjoy all the businesses along the route that evening.

The [Tucson Museum of Art](#) and [Lohse Family YMCA](#) will be providing pre-parade entertainment that evening. Visit [El Charro](#)

[Cafe](#) and [Old Town Artisans](#) before the parade and end the evening with dancing at [La Cocina](#).

If you’d like to sponsor or volunteer, call Brandi Haga at the Downtown Tucson Partnership, 837-6501.

UDALL PARK

The Eastside Senior Club (ESC) Holiday party will be held at the Hilton East Hotel on Thursday, December 13 at 11:30 a.m. Tickets available at the Udall front desk. The event is \$25.00 per person.

The Spring 2013 Program Guide and Class Catalog has been published and is now available. Pick up a free guide at any City of Tucson Parks and Recreation facility or visit www.ezeereg.com. Registration for City of Tucson residents begins Saturday, November 17 at 6 a.m. using the EZEereg online only. City residents will be able to register for Therapeutic Recreation programs on Monday, November 19 at 6 a.m. Registration for non-city Residents begins Monday, November 19 at 6 a.m. For additional information, contact Class Registration at 791-4877.

Udall Center is providing van transportation for the seniors that sign up to attend the Fourth Avenue Street Fair. The event is on Friday, December 7th. The van is leaving Udall Center at 9:15 a.m. and returning at 2:15 p.m. The cost is \$2 per person and space is limited. Sign up at the front desk. Call 791-4121 for additional information.

Udall Center will offer a Winter Camp for the dates of December 26, 27, 28, and January 2, 3 and 4 from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The cost is \$10 per session per child (ages 5-11 years old). Registration starts November 26, 2012 and at Udall Center only. The program will include fun games, sports, and arts and crafts. Limited space available. Call 791-4931 for more information.

SAGUARO
NATIONAL
PARK

Star Party December 13, 7 pm: Join park naturalists for an introduction to astronomy and a look at the desert night sky. Telescopes and binoculars will be available. Reservations required. Call 733-5153, Wheelchair accessible.

Holiday Caravan December 27, 5:30 pm: Explore the natural lore of the solstice holiday on a unique nighttime drive through the park's loop drive. Auto tours will be offered at 5:30, 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30 and 8:00 p.m., and will feature several stops along the 8-mile Cactus Forest Drive. Each tour lasts approximately 1½ hours. Cookies and cider will be offered at the visitor center all evening. Reservations required. Call 733-5153, wheelchair accessible. For additional daily programs and weekly scheduled hikes, contact the visitor's center at 733-5153 or check the website (<http://www.nps.gov/sagu/planyourvisit/things2do.htm>)

STUFF THE
BUS

Students at Sahuaro High School in conjunction with McDonalds are filling a TUSD school bus with new unwrapped toys to benefit Ronald McDonald House and Toys for Tots. Members of the Sahuaro varsity football team, student council, National Honor Society and other students are collecting toys in advance and will be on hand at the event.

The event will be hosted at the parking lot at the McDonalds at 8800 E Broadway (on the corner of Broadway and Camino Seco) from 8 am – 3 am Saturday, December 15. Ronald McDonald will make an appearance at 11 am. Anyone donating a toy will receive a \$1 Big Mac certificate.

For more information, contact Ackerley Advertising, 520 546-9707.

ZOO LIGHTS

The Reid Park Zoo and Cox Communications are sponsoring Zoo Lights. Zoo Lights at Reid Park Zoo is guaranteed to put you in the winter spirit, with jingle bells, twinkling lights, falling snow, and Santa. Light displays, animal-theme light sculptures, and thousands of sparkling bulbs will help make Zoo Lights a part of your Tucson holiday tradition. Most animals choose to be off exhibit for this event.

Zoo Lights will be open from Thursdays through Sundays through December 9, and runs every night from December 13 – 23. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children. Donations of new, unwrapped toys for local children are appreciated.

NUTCRACKER

Dancing in the Streets will be doing a unique performance of the Nutcracker Ballet Saturday and Sunday Dec 22nd and 23rd at the Fox Theatre. In addition to the 125 students on stage, brilliantly costumed, Mayor Rothchild and his wife Karen will be dancing in the party scene as well as Dave Fitzsimmons with Mary Okyoe, Thom Lewis with Carla Keegan and Steve Nuñez with Treena Parvello. You can get tickets at the theater box office 520-547-3040 for \$13-35.00.

RIDE SUN TRAN TO THE FOURTH AVENUE STREET FAIR

Ride Sun Tran to the Fourth Avenue Street Fair event this weekend, December 7 through 9, and avoid the need to navigate through downtown construction. Sun Tran has regularly scheduled service to the downtown area, providing a convenient and cost-effective travel option to the event.

Below is a list of Sun Tran Routes that serve the downtown area, requiring a short walk to Fourth Avenue. Be sure to check online or call the Customer Service Department to confirm changes to routes due to modern streetcar construction in the area. Route 1 - Glenn/Swan Route 2 - Pueblo Gardens Route 3 - 6th

Street/Wilmot Route 4 - Speedway Route 6 - South Park Avenue/ North First Avenue Route 7 - 22nd Street Route 8 - Broadway/South Sixth Avenue Route 9 - Grant Route 10 - Flowing Wells Route 16 - 12th Avenue/Oracle Route 19 - Stone Route 21 - West Congress/Silverbell Route 22 - Grande Route 23 - Mission

For passenger convenience, park-and-ride locations are available throughout the community. Please visit www.suntran.com/commuter_park.php for a detailed list of locations.

The cost to ride Sun Tran is \$1.50 one-way for full fare passengers, 50

cents one-way for seniors 65 years and older, Medicare cardholders, disabled persons and low-income individuals with a SunGO ID & card. Children who are five years of age and younger ride free with a paying passenger.

Passengers are advised to consult Sun Tran's Ride Guide, visit www.suntran.com, or call the Customer Service Center at (520) 792-9222 (for person's with hearing and speech impairments, call TDD: 520-628-1565) for trip planning assistance or more information. For information about the Fourth Avenue Street Fair, visit www.fourthavenue.org.

TREE CYCLE

The TreeCycle program begins December 26 and ends January 6. The program is a way for Tucson residents to recycle their Christmas trees. Remember to bring your own container to bring home woodchips that can be used in your garden. Please remember to remove all ornaments, decorations and tree stands before dropping off at the TreeCycle sites.

Another way you can help the environment is to "tree pool." Bring your neighbor's tree too. Fewer trips mean less pollution for all of us.

The east side locations include:

Udall Park, 7200 E Tanque Verde Rd., South of the ball fields (follow signs)

Golf Links Sports Complex, North-

west of Craycroft Rd and Golf Links Rd.

Purple Heart Park, Southeast corner of Rita Rd. and Esmond Loop

Randolph Golf Course, 600 S. Alvernon Way, Southeast portion of parking lot

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The next regular Mayor and Council meetings will be on December 11 and 18. Regular Session starts at 5:30 pm following an afternoon study session. There is always a short call to the audience before the business portion of the meeting. Council chambers are located downtown at 255 W Alameda. The agendas for the meetings [are posted online](#)



We're on the web!
Cms3.tucsonaz.gov/ward2

D E C E M B E R 5 , 2 0 1 2

Ward 2
7575 E. Speedway Blvd.
Tucson AZ 85710
Phone: 520-791-4687
Fax: 520-791-5380
Email: ward2@tucsonaz.gov

**Councilman Paul Cunningham's Ward 2
Newsletter**

Please bring these items to the Ward
2 Office for the following charities:
THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK—Non Perish-
able Items
DIAPER BANK OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA—
Infant/Child/Adult Diapers
SAAF—Personal Hygiene Products and Per-
sonal Care Products
TIHAN - Personal Care Items for Individuals
and Families in Need
ICU—Eye Glasses
DANCING IN THE STREETS ARIZONA—
Ballet/Dance Equipment